

critical digest



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This Week in NYC

Theatre mourned the death of Oscar Hammerstein II who died at age 65 of stomach cancer at his Doylestown, Penn home. A private funeral service was held for the family only at Hartsdale, NY, the body was cremated. A memorial service at a NY theatre will be held within the next two weeks. The scheduled performance of Sound of Music was presented.

Plays

A Thurber Carnival resumes Sept 5 matinee after a successful month's run in Central City, Colo... Five shows began rehearsals this week--Face of a Hero, Farewell Farewell Eugene, The Wall, The Unsinkable Molly Brown, Invitation to a March... The 49th Cousin is new name of "Sweet and Sour" by Florence Lowe- Caroline Francke to be presented Oct 25.. Under The Yum-Yum Tree by Lawrence Roman to be presented Nov 16 at Miller by Roger Stevens-Fred Brisson... The Rape of the Belt signed as interim tenant at ANTA on Nov 2, it must make may Jan 5 for The Hero, new foreshortened title of musical version of "Hail the Conquering Hero" film.

Directors

Robert Lewis resigned as director of Rhinoceros because of its delayed opening date, producer Leo Kerz threatens suit for damages... Burgess Meredith to stage Midgie Purvis, farce-comedy by Mary Chase, which will star Tallulah Bankhead, opening now due in late winter... Bob Fosse to direct The Hero... Cyril Ritchard to direct, and probably appear in, The Happiest Girl in the World, new musical based on Greek legends by Yip Harburg- Fred Saidy-Henry Myers. To be presented by Lee Guber in March.

Players

Charles Nelson Reilly subbed at two Sat performances for Dick Van Dyke, Bye, Bye Birdie, latter was ill... Leueen MacGrath to be co-starred in Farewell, Farewell Eugene with Margaret Rutherford and Mildred Dunnock... Lynn Hamilton, Leila Martin, Jack Bittner signed for The Wall... Madeleine Sherwood and Richard Derr join Invitation to a March... Joyce Redman to co-star in The Rape of the Belt with Constance Cummings and Peggy Wood... Five Canadian actors signed by Tyrone Guthrie for Love and Libel-- Robert Christie, James Edmond, John Milligan, Leo Leyden, Amelia Hall... Barbara Baile to play opposite James Daly in Period of Adjustment... Joe Bova to be featured in The Rape of the Belt... Nancy Marchand and Clinton Kimbrough in Laurette... Eddie Phillips to have a featured role in Tenderloin.

NYC Calendar

The Overcoat & BIP Sketches-City Center- 9/6. NY City Center and Ronald Wilford present Marcel Marceau and his 8 member Compagnie de Mimes in a monodrama of Gogol's novel, adapted and staged by Marceau, and a complete new set of New-Style Exercises and Pantomimes with Marceau as "BIP." Limited three week engagement.

H. M. S. Pinafore - Phoenix- 9 /7 Phoenix Theatre presents Stratford, Ont. Festival production of Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera directed by Tyrone Guthrie with Eric House. Limited five week engagement.

Sign of Jonah- Players Theatre 9/8 Donald Goldman presents George White's adaptation of Guenter Rutenborn's German play, staged by Brian Shaw with David Ford Loraine Serabian

Dance of Death- Key (4 St Marks) 9/8. Richard Roffman presents revival of Strindberg drama.

Award Dept.

George Abbott received the Sam S. Shubert Foundation Award this week in a presentation made in the office of John Shubert, 234 W 44. Director of Fiorello! had been named May 28 for his "out-standing individual contribution to the NY theatrical season of 1959-60."

Theatre TV Notes

CBS Ed Sullivan will present an Oscar Hammerstein II tribute Sept 4... WNTA Play of Week production of Waiting for Godot to co-star Burgess Meredith, Zero Mostel, Kurt Kasznar, directed by Alan Schneider... WCBS-TV(NY) Sunrise Semester will present "Shakespeare Tragedies" course starting Sept 28 at 6 30 AM, given by Prof Richard Harrier, NYU.

Theatre Film Notes

Paul Newman and Elizabeth Taylor to star in Two for See-Saw film... Jack Lemmon to star in film version of Irma la Douce to be written and directed by Billy Wilder next year... Josh Logan to produce and direct "Act One" film .

Theatre Book Notes

"Frogs" and "The Birds" by Aristophanes included in new Heritage Press Book edition of Dial (\$5) with a new introduction by Dudley Fitts... "Dramatic Works of Sheridan" published in paperback edition by Dolphin-Doubleday (. 95c)

Off Broadway

Between Two Thieves which had been slated to close last weekend, will continue at York until Oct 1 when it will move to an arena Off Broadway house... James Star buck to direct and choreograph The Prov - incetown Show which opens six week run Oct 1... Archie Smith to portray title role in The Idiot Sept 25 at Gate... Jo Anne Gallier to be featured in Here Come the Clowns ... Gail Janning replaced Susie Martin, La Ronde.

Top Secret , a new Anti-Nazi play written, directed and produced by Ida Lub - lenski Erlich to be presented for six per-formances at Barbizon Plaza Sept 5- 11.

A Delightful Season , a new musical version of Wilde's "Lady Windemere's Fan" by Allan Stern-Gerald Burke-Nicholas Pavlik to be presented Sept 28 at Gramercy Arts Theatre, featuring Joan Copeland.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn , 1951 musical by Arthur Schwartz-Dorothy Fields to be revived Nov 28 at Barbizon Plaza by Richard York.

Equity Library Theatre to offer Sat and Sun matinees for high school students and college students starting Oct 15 at Lenox Hill. \$18 season subscription for 15 productions.

London

The Art of Living revue based on Art Buchwald columns drew mixed critical notices. Some complained of over-thick British accent by Hiram Sherman... King Kong , South African negro musical, to be presented in Oct by Jack Hylot.

Road Tours

The Andersonville Trial tour opens Sept 28 in Norfolk with Brian Donlevy... West Side Story returns to road Oct 31 in Washington, D. C.

Sweden

More Stately Mansions , O'Neil post-humous play, postponed Royal Dramatic Theatre, Stockholm debut until next spring. Ingmar Bergman was to direct.

Edinburgh Festival

The Wallace , a new play based on Scottish legends , presented at Assembly Hall in place of "The Three Estates" ... The Seagull Old Vic production staged by John Fernald with Judith Anderson is the highlight of Festival.

((Late News & Reviews--Supplement))

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

The Taming of the Shrew- Central Park 8/18. 6 pro-Times, Herald Tribune, News, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun, Post--filed on third and final presentation of free Shakespeare productions of NY Shakespeare Festival for this season. Gerald Freedman directed cast headed by Jane White, J D Cannon, Barbara Ann Barrie, John Heffernan, Frederic Warriner, scenery and costumes by Eldon Elder, music by David Amram. Five of the six affirmative notices were outright raves for all departments, with only Post reviewer approving in milder tone. Gelb, Times, cheered the Festival group, poor in funds but rich in everything that makes for stimulating theatre, for achieving a vitality, authority, clarity, pace and style that can't be touched. Kupferberg, Herald Tribune, top-billed it as the liveliest, lustiest, gaudiest production ever given of the Bard's comedy. Freedman he lauded for directing the cast with the sureness of a circus ringmaster in a production at once uproariously funny, dramatically swift and convincingly human. Silver, News, thoroughly enjoyed the jaunty, lusty production, an inspired piece of merry-making. Aston, WTS, found everything in it boisterously merry, pleasant fun to watch funny people being both dainty and coarse. WTS critic would have liked it 15 minutes shorter though. McClain, Journal American, applauded mad and spirited version that added up to a gay evening. Both McClain, Journal American, and Watts, Post, noted some additions to the script, which neither helped nor hindered. Post aisle-sitter liked gusto and straightforwardness of production. He did think the Bianco subplot was given more prominence than usual, an item which resulted in occasional moments of comparative tedium.

Man and Superman- Jan Hus 8/16. 1 pro- Silver, News, added to file of Archer & Aubrey Productions revival (CD-8/22/60) making a new total of 4 pro and 2 con. News man okayed the workmanlike performance of a confident, if uneven cast. James Forster, Peggy Shields, Dolores Welber turned in best jobs, missing few of their assigned Shawian laughs. The three promised productions of this Shaw play to be presented Off Broadway this season should be interesting to all students of Shaw.

NYC CRITICS IN LONDON

Two NYC critics after quick looks at London's current productions had diverse opinions of the success of the West End season. Watts, Post, on the basis of seeing five plays and one musical rated the London theatre in a healthy and enviable condition, filled with vigor, enterprise and excitement. The British drama reviewers on the whole strike the Post's wandering appraiser as an even more excitable lot than the NY reviewers, given to excesses of praise and condemnation. He thinks the British critics overrated both *The Caretaker* and *Fings Ain't What They Used T'Be*. Watts has high admiration for *A Passage to India*, Ross, and *A Man for All Seasons*, three plays which call for distinguished performances in their leading roles and which receive them.

McClain, Journal American, saw *Ross* and *A Passage to India* during his brief stay. Reviewer believes that the West End theatre had only a mediocre year, inspite of fact that all the mildly successful British plays have been bought by US producers for Broadway production. Both plays he attended will score in NY with proper casting and direction assumed, he predicted.

London theatre season will end in the black, thanks to *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, *Irma La Douce* and *The Mousetrap*, concludes Morello, World Telegram & Sun. The more serious offerings strike Americans as ponderous or merely irrelevant. *The Hostage* may be one rebel too many for US fans, *A Man for All Seasons* requires familiarity with British historical minutiae. *Ross* seems to have limited appeal.



INTER -

VIEW



HI-LITES

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' fear which dominates his thinking and his actions is that he shall not be able to write when next he sits down to his typewriter, he told Lewis, World Telegram & Sun during a visit to the author's Key West, Fla. home. There is nothing the playwright can do to get rid of this fear, not even psychiatry can help, and he drinks to enable himself to live with it. Williams listed the vital things in his life--his sister going to an asylum, his first heart palpitations which made him think he did not have long to live, getting used to the shock of success after *The Glass Menagerie*, and an operation which made him think for a while that he had cancer. He also admitted that ever since *A Streetcar Named Desire* he has written the leading part of each new play so Marlon Brando could play it.

GERALD FREEDMAN, director of *The Taming of the Shrew*, worked full time for six months on this his first staging job, he told Little, Herald Tribune. Casting took three months of daily interviewing by the professional singer-musician, turned director. He was assistant director to Jerome Robbins for *Gypsy*, *West Side Story* and *Bells Are Ringing*.

JANE WHITE, *Taming of the Shrew* title player, will believe she has reached the top of her profession when she can choose any role she thinks she can create, instead of being cast because someone saw her in something, she told Herridge, Post. Actress currently has her own class of acting students in NY, and also has taught drama at Skidmore College.

JENNY HECHT, currently playing in *The Chalk Garden* at Nyack, NY, explained her reasons for wanting to be an actress to Hughes, WTS. Teenager likes to be other people, as she gets bored with herself and her own problems. She also noted that she gets beastly mean when she is not working.

EILEEN BRENNAN, *Little Mary Sunshine*, is troubled that she has been typed and emphasizes fiercely that the character in the hit Off Broadway musical is only part of her, she told Watson, Journal American. Actress was so in love with role after auditioning show for investors that she put her own rehearsal salary in as an investment.

JOYCE EBERT, who portrays Mirando in *The Tempest* in Stratford, Conn., knows it is a tough business getting a role on Broadway, but she believes she will make it, she told Wahls, News. She has been in nine Off Broadway shows and fourteen Shakespeare summer productions, and is now hoping for a part in *The Wall*.

ELSA MAURY, NY Shakespeare Festival booster and fund raiser, has sold well over 100 sponsors at \$7.50 each this season, Duder, Post, discovered. A rental agent at the Hotel Alden, Central Park West and 82nd St, she spends all of her spare time helping the Joe Papp productions. Diverse services include providing lemon drops for would be coughing children.

JOSEPH BERUH, *Leave It to Jane* producer, detailed the hazardous start of the run of the musical which has turned into an Off Broadway hit to Ferris, WTS. Opened at a cost of \$9000 plus union bonds it did not catch on the first weeks and would have folded if not for a loan of J. L. Rodale, Allentown, Penn publisher and the hard work of the producer in trimming expenses. Show continued to lose money for 12 weeks and has been successful ever since.



OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College-----Community----Summer

Aug 29, 1960 Vol XII No 23 Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest"-139 E 47 St, NY El 5-6894 \$25 per year for full "CD" service

Community Theatre

Baltimore Civic Center seating 13,000 will be constructed to house theatre, sports events, meetings and conventions. Benjamin C Moore is executive director of the project.

Winter Stock

Cloud Theatre, Cliffside, NJ to present a season of dinner-theatre productions starting Sept 15 with Fallen Angels. Ann Lombard is producer. \$5 admission will cover both a hot buffet dinner and the play. Theatre seats 100 and each production slated to run for a month.

Society Hill Playhouse, Philadelphia, Penn to open a 33 week season in Oct. Located in former Garrick Hall in midtown theatre will seat 293. Jay Hogan, Igor Belinkoff, Chuck Romm are the producers.

Contests

\$1000 first prize set in Town Theatre, Columbia, S. C. contest. Prize posted by State-Columbia Record, daily, and two former directors of the 41 year old community theatre, Fred Coe and Delbert Mann. Latter two will also serve as judges. Winning entry to be presetned by Town Theatre. Deadline for entries is Nov 15, 1960.

Children's Theatre

Theatre Arts Program of YMHA Moshulu-Montiofre Community Center, Bronx, NY concluded pioneer 8 week summer course in drama for teenagers. 15 attended first season and presented a workshop production of The Wizard of Oz.



Calendar-Tryouts

The Captain and the Kings
Westport, Conn 8/29. Westport Country Playhouse presents new play by Leo Kieberman with Zachary Scott, John Alexander, directed by John Gerstad.

Fido- Paramus, NJ 8/30. North Jersey Playhouse presents new comedy-farce by Jack Rostick with Vicki Cummings, Rosetta LeNoire, staged by Windsor Lewis.

Cry of the Raindrop- Fiskill, NY 8/30. Ceciwood Summer Theatre presents new play by Lonn Chapman with Pat Hingle.

There Was a Crooked Fence-
Nyack, NY 8/29. Tappan Zee Playhouse presents new play by Alfred Bester with Betsy Palmer.

The Disappearing Act- Dorset,
Vt 9/1. Caravan Theatre presents a new play by Fred Carmichael.

Odd Man In- Nantucket, Mass 8/29. Nantucket Playhouse presents a new play by Robin Maugham.

Dear Miss Phoebe- Stockbridge, Mass 8/29. Berkshire Playhouse presents a new musical by Christopher Hassall-Harry Parr Davis adapted from Barrie's "Quality Street."

Unusual Summer Revivals

Private Lives- Bayville, NY 8/29

The Visit- Buffalo, NY 8/29

Blue Denim-Thompson, Conn 8/30

Tea & Sympathy-Holyoke, Mass
8/29.

Electra- Olney, Md 8/30

Summer Playhouses

Hawaiian Paradise, an original musical by the Lombardo Brothers and John Loeb will be presented next summer by Guy Lombardo at Jones Beach Marine Theatre.

Canadian Shakespeare Festival, Stratford, Ontario, will present three Shakespeare plays and an original Canadian drama next summer. Coriolanus, Love's Labors Lost and Henry VIII will be produced, the first two to be directed by Michael Langham, the last by George McGowan. To The Canvas Barricade by Donald Jack, which won the recent Toronto Globe-Mail playwriting contest, will also be presented. Season next year will run from June 19 to Sept 23.

Ballots Up by Gov. Foster Furcolo of Mass was tested last week at Cherry County Playhouse, Traverse City, Mich. Play is based on author's 1957 novel "Let George Do It" published under nom de plume John Foster by Harcourt Brace.

Storowton Music Theatre, West Springfield, Mass., exchanged Prudential trading stamps for tickets this summer, one book of stamps covering a \$3.25 admission.

Orleans, Mass. Arena Theatre is one of the few resident stock company summer theatres left. Ross, Herald Tribune, reports. Gordon Argo, producer and founder of 11 year old enterprise, hires a company of four women and seven men. Lawrence Winter, Stanford University teacher, is the director. Ten to thirteen plays are given each summer including a mixture of Broadway hits, classics and new plays.. This fall Argo will teach drama at Boston Conservatory of Music.





FAMOUS FIRST NIGHTS

LATE NYC

NEWS &
REVIEWS



Oklahoma- St James-3/31-43-5/29/48. Unanimous pro votes- split between raves for every element and milder views of book-filed on the first musical collaboration of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. Theatre Guild musical based on Lynn Rigg's "Green Grows the Lilacs" staged by Rouben Mamoulian, choreography by Agnes de Mille with Alfred Drake, Joan Roberts, Celeste Holm, Joan McCracken, Betty Garde, Howard da Silva and Joseph Buloff. The entire NY run of 2202 performances was held at the St James. The NY company grossed \$7.

Times- Lewis Nichols- Delightful musical play, wonderful is neatest adjective for this excursion of the Guild combines a fresh and infectious gaiety, a charm of manner, beautiful acting, singing and dancing and a score which does not do any harm since it is one of Rodgers' best. Play has excellent collection of players, none of whom yet is world famous. They have clear voices and the thought that the audience might also like to hear Hammerstein's poetry.

Herald Tribune- Howard Barnes- Songs, dances and a story triumphantly blended. A jubilant and enchanting musical, with one of Rodgers' best scores, dramatically imaginative libretto and a string of catchy lyrics. One of the most captivating shows of the season, a striking piece of theatrical Americana as well as a series of musical comedy numbers.

News- Burns Mantle- A combination of "Green Grows the Lilacs" and de Mille's "Rodeo" ballet, a mighty joining of the arts of drama and the dance. The most thoroughly and attractively American musical since "Showboat" with Rodgers' songs fitted to a collection of unusually atmospheric and intelligible lyrics.

World Telegram- Burton Rascoe- Combined some of the best feature of the ballet at the Met with some of the best features of the great tradition of Broadway. It is fresh, lively, colorful and enormously pleasing. Rodgers has written one of the finest musical scores ever written, lyrics are bright and amusing.

PM- Louis Kronenberger - A folk musical for which Rodgers' has written one of his most charming scores and into which de Mille has introduced some picturesque and lively dancing. The book is just one of those things, if that, and the comedy is neither subtle nor extensive. Show is just different enough to add something special to Broadway's musical life.

Post- Willella Waldorf- After mild, somewhat monotonous beginning it suddenly came to life in the middle of the first act and grew steadily more entertaining. Second act improvement over first dramatically and several vigorous ensemble numbers gave variety and movement. Music is invariably pleasant and will grow on you as it is played and replayed. Book is workmanlike adaptation after first dull stretch and the lyrics are often bright and amusing. Drake has no tremendous voice, but has a warm baritone, intelligently used.

Sun -Ward Morehouse- Has great charm, fresh and diverting, inclined to undue slowness at times and monotony creeps in, but it recovers and by time of finale you are under the spell of it.

Journal American-John Anderson- Fresh and delightful show, beautiful and imaginative. It has at a rough estimate practically everything, a light and colorful libretto and a score that ranks with the best. Could have been cut 15 minutes.

LATE NYC NEWS- A Taste of Honey new debut date is now Oct 4 at Lyceum... ANTA-State Dept repertory company to tour Europe in The Skin of Our Teeth, The Glass Menagerie and The Miracle Worker... Geoffrey Lumb replaced R. G. Armstrong, The Miracle Worker... NY Shakespeare Festival's The Taming of the Shrew reports it has to turn away 5000 nightly after the 2500 seats in Central Park outdoor theatre are filled... \$2500 fund given by Play of the Month Guild and Association of Theatre Benefit Agents to League of NY Theatres to fight for repeal of 10% federal admission tax... Claudette Nevins, 23 year old NYU Phi Beta Kappa will make Broadway debut in The Fall... Mickey Deems added to Vintage '60... The Shoemaker and the Peddler new play by Armand Aulicino with music by Frank Fields based on final hours of Sacco and Vanzetti to be presented by Julius Productions Oct 13 at East 74th St Theatre, Lee Nemetz to direct.

LONDON: The Zoo Story by Edward Albee presented on a twinbill at the Arts Theatre with This Property is Condemned by Tennessee Williams drew mixed critical notices... The Princess, ballet with music by Ted Kneeland first presented at Royal Poinciana Playhouse, Palm Beach, Fla, panned by critics. NY producer Lawrence Wien has invited public to attend free performances at Strand, and to complete questionnaire. Those who bought seat for performances from Aug 31-Sept 6 will be refunded the admission price... The Tiger and the Horse by Robert Bolt with Michael Redgrave opened to almost all pro votes, making his second current hit. The first is A Man for All Seasons.

Theatre of Chance- Living Theatre- Watts, Post, catching up with Sun evening repertory bill of "The Marrying Maiden" by Jackson MacLow" and "Women of Trachis" adaptation by Ezra Pound, admitted he was glad he did not have to review the avant garde evening originally. The former he considered a curiosity that he was glad he didn't miss and described his own moods as successive attacks of irritation, annoyance, desperation, slowly growing interest, and in the end, something short of, but not far from fascination, possibly of a hypnotic nature. Pound playlet has not added anything helpful to Sophocles, and the chief effect is to reduce the scale of the tragedy to smaller proportions. Twin bill opened Jun 22 to a set of split notices-1 Pro (Post, Herald) - 2 con (Journal American, World Telegram) and 2 divided (Times, Herald Tribune liked 1 play each.)

La Plume de ma Tante-Royale- French revue revisited by Aston, World Telegram & Sun, currently starring Robert Clary and Lilliane Montevecchi subbing for the vacationing Robert Dhery and Collette Brosset, holds up magnificently. Clary is an exceptionally funny man with a talent that raises him above buffoonery. Dhery and Brosset return Aug 29.

ADD HAMMERSTEIN OBITS

All of us will feel his loss, both in the theatre and in the many civic and philanthropic undertakings to which he was always ready to lend a hand, stated Mrs Roosevelt, Post... Lyrics of Hammerstein followed his fascinating trial from boyishness to maturity, detailed Aston, WTS... Hammerstein's passing leaves a gaping hole in the ranks of the giants of American popular music, and it also leaves Richard Rodgers tremendously deprived, states Watt, News. Music critic's fervent wish is that Rodgers, who must be inconsolable, will once again find the means to enrich our world with his music.



HAMMERSTEIN OBITS... Oscar Hammerstein II death means theatre has lost a man of character who stood for all that is decent in life, his point of view was implicit in everything he wrote, stated Times editorial... Others made his country's laws; Oscar Hammerstein made its songs. And in them he lives beyond death, commented Herald Tribune editorial... His death takes from us a superb lyricist and an artist who probably more than anyone else changed musical comedy to authentic musical drama, added Journal American editorial... It is not Broadway alone that mourns him, but everyone among the millions whose lives have been enriched by his unforgettable lyrics; down the centuries to come, his memorial will be the swelling and triumphant sound of music, concludes Mirror editorial.

Theatre has lost a giant who was also a man of conscience, the more successful he became, the more humble he was personally, he and Mr. Rodgers created the modern musical theatre and we are all indebted to the fine part that he played in it, commented Atkinson, Times... Hammerstein's death has taken much of the music out of NY, spiritually out of its hearts, stated Batelle, Journal American.... The theatre loses not only one of its most talented citizens, but one of its genuine gentlemen, notes Sobol, Journal American.

COLUMN TIPS... Dane Clark to star next season in Giant, Son of Giants, notes Wilson, Post... George Axelrod seeking 50% of profits to adapt French hit Gog and Magog, hears Watt, News... The Miracle Worker has steady advance sale of \$100,000 reports Coleman, Mirror.

BWAY HOPES... Despite the inevitable chorus of moans in the background, hope obviously springs eternal in the collective breast of Broadway, views Silver, News. Looming at top of his wishful list of interest are--The Wall, Becket, Rhinoceros, Period of Adjustment, Laurette, The Hostage, Midgie Purvis.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Late Mark Barron, Associated Press drama critic, had the spirit of the true romantic, the kindness of his heart was his great handicap as a drama critic, remarked Watts, Post... Watt, News, would be happier if the American Festival Theatre and Academy of Stratford, Conn would shorten its name.

LONDON STAGE VIEWS... Faith in the future is the most significant aspect of the opening of London's Royalty Theatre, comments "Stage" editorial. In times when so many are shouting from the housetops that the living theatre is dead and that there is more money and a wider public in mechanized entertainment, someone has come along with sufficient courage in the future and in the taste of people in search of entertainment to build a theatre which would be an asset to any capital city in the civilized world, British trade weekly continues. It has been ingeniously constructed as an integral part of a vast new commercial building, which means that it is "possible" from an economic point of view.

EVER YBODY'S A CRITIC... NY police investigating the week end robbery of \$5200 from Sardi's speculated that the holdup man was either a former employee or a patron of the restaurant.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS... "The Psychology of the Actor" by Yoti Late (Day \$3.75) recommended as a comprehensive survey of the types of people who are drawn into the field and as a highly readable book by Frances Fuller, director of American Academy of Dramatic Arts, in Times Book Review. Study is also excellent for the average reader, teachers and bewildered parents.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS... Fantasticks original Off Broadway cast album (MGM) mildly okayed by Watt, News, and Schreiber, World Telegram & Sun. Latter billed it as light, tuneful show music with adequate vocalism, former as a pleasant unassuming revue.



Man and Superman (Jan Hus House) is a very nicely spoken production of the Shaw comedy, inspite of its shabby scenery and costumes. That the cast is very uneven, with most of the male characters portrayed admirably and most of the female characters done badly, does not take away from the continually fascinating prejudices displayed in the script. The witty lines are presented by the hundreds, no one mumbles, and Shaw fans are bound to have a feast.

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Theatre-on-the-hour is the newest addition to Greenwich Village coffee houses and nightlife. Short plays by unknowns and knowns (if they are royalty free) are presented by ambitious actors who work for whatever they can collect via hat passing. These non-strolling and non-Equity players are getting little critical encouragement from the Off Broadway reviewers who have discovered it is a fulltime job keeping tabs on the events in the tiny playhouses that sell orange juice between the acts. Providing free entertainment for tourists in search of beatniks hardly seems to fall into anyone's definition of professional theatre.

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The next president of the US will be a theatregoer, "Variety" predicts with certainty. Nixon attends theatre in both Washington and NY, and Kennedy for many years had a standing order for four tickets to all opening nights at the National Theatre, Washington, D. C. Theatre fans of both parties hope that whoever the "best man" turns out to be, that Washington theatre-goers will be polite enough to make it possible for the new President to attend the theatre as much as possible.

* * *

Oscar Hammerstein II was unique in that every kind thought uttered about him will be true. Aside from his obvious talents as a musician and as a gentlemen he was one of the very few people in the entire theatre industry who was free from the evils of rumor, gossip and hate.

* * *

Echo I is the forerunner of international TV, the scientists tell us. Bouncing signals off ten story high balloons will bring us the best of foreign TV at the same time it is telecast to its homegrown audiences. So goes the beautiful thoughts of the idealists. Exactly who is going to sponsor the non-commercial three and four hour BBC dramas is a question which no one is answering right now.

* * *

Congressional bills to abolish the 10% federal tax on admission will be introduced by NY's senators and congressmen if they can squeeze them into the special short session. Whether any such 10% cut would go to the producers or directly to the public in lower ticket prices is not part of the bill, but it should be. Without a written instance on the latter course, the money would be taken by the producers to cover increased costs. Such an action will bring few new people to the theatre and will not increase the number of productions theatre fans can see. The only fair thing to do if such a bill is passed is to write in a provision that a 10% ticket price cut will be instituted for a stated period.

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Aug 29, 1960 THEATRE FACT CHART--CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47, NYC-EL 5-6894

Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening dates are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific critical details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town Tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating even- ing, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back investment.)

"B"-Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety gross estimates of past week and preceding weeks. Thus 100% B- Cap \$80-\$80-\$76 \$75- means show was a sellout last week at \$80,000, the previous week's gross was \$76,000, etc

BEST MAN	235 W 45	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves
Morosco \$7.50 3/31/60	CI 6-6230	100% B- Cap \$40--\$40 \$39 \$36 \$39 \$41
BYE BYE BIRDIE	302 W 45	90% C- 1 Con- Times-rest all raves
Beck \$8.60 4/14/60	CI 6-6363	100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$57 \$57 \$58 \$58
FIORELLO!	235 W 44	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book
Broadhurst \$9.40 11/23/59	CI 6-6699	100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$58 \$58 \$59 \$57
FIVE FINGER EXERCISE	245 W 45	90% C- 1 Con- News- 5 raves
Music Box \$7.50 12/2/59	CI 6-4636	40% B- Cap \$40--\$17 \$15 \$14 \$15 \$15 \$15
GYPSY	249 W 45	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book
Imperial \$9.40 5/21/59	CO 5-2412	80% B- Cap \$64--\$50-resumed 8/14 vac.
LA PLUME	242 W 45	100% C- 6 raves-Times milder
Royale \$8.05 11/11/58	CI 5-5760	75% B- Cap \$45--\$35 \$34 \$32 \$36 \$36 \$34
MIRACLE WORKER	137 W 48	100% C- 5 raves-Times, WTS milder
Playhouse \$7.50 10/19/59	CI 5-6060	100% B- Cap \$36--\$35 \$32 \$30 \$31 \$31 \$31
MUSIC MAN	245 W 44	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder
Majestic \$8.05 12/19/57	CI 6-0730	75% B- Cap \$70--\$45 \$41 \$40 \$44 \$44 \$42
MY FAIR LADY	235 W 51	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Charls
Hellinger \$8.05 3/15/56	PL 7-7064	75% B- Cap \$40--\$57 \$53 \$50 \$52 \$51 \$52

SOUND OF MUSIC	205 W 46	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves
Lunt \$9.90 11/16/59	ju 6-5555	100% B- Cap \$75--\$76 \$75 -Vacation
TAKE ME ALONG	225 W 44	90% C- 1 Con- Mir-2 raves-News,WTS
Shubert \$9.40 10/22/59	CI 6-5910	75% B- Cap \$64--\$50 \$49 \$50-Vacat.
TENTH MAN	222 W 45	100% C- 7 pro-2 raves- Times, News
Booth \$7.50 11/5/59	CI 6-5969	80% B- Cap \$32--\$27 \$26 \$23 \$22 \$23
THURBER CARNIVAL	245 W 52	100% C- 6 raves- Mir. milder
ANTA \$7.50 2/26/60	CI 6-6270	Re-Opens Sept 5 Matinee
TOYS IN ATTIC	141 W 44	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder
Hudson \$7.50 2/25/60	JU 6-2237	50% B- Cap \$40--\$22 \$22 \$18 \$22 \$23 \$23
WEST SIDE STORY	1674 Bway	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical
W Garden \$8.05 4/27/60	CI 5-4878	75% B- Cap \$64--\$44 \$44 \$40 \$43 \$42

LONDON OPENINGS

Next Time Yes-Lyric Opera- 9/5
Waiting in Wings- Duke York- 9/7
Happy Haven- Royal Court 9/14
Once Upon A Mattress- Adelphi 9/20

TV THEATRE PROGRAMS

Sept 19- WNTA-NY- The Iceman Cometh on Play of Week
Oct 22- CBS- The Disenchanted on Show of Month
Oct 24- NBC- Shangri-La on Hall of Fame
Nov 20- NBC- Macbeth on Hall of Fame with Judith Anderson
Feb 7- NBC- Time Remembered on Hall of Fame

"CD" PROS & CONS

PROS: Best Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Five Finger Exercise, Gypsy, La Plume, Miracle Worker, Music Man, My Fair Lady, Take Me Along, Thurber Carnival, Toys in Attic

Balcony, Country Scandal, Fantasticks, John Brown's Body, Krapp's Last Tape, Leave It to Jane, Little Mary Sunshine, 3 Penny Opera

CONS: Sound of Music, Tenth Man

Between Two Thieves, La Ronde

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY	159 Bleecker	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS
Circle \$4.50 3/3/60	GR 3-4950	3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
BETWEEN 2 THIEVES	64 & 1st	3 Pro- Times, Am, WTS
York \$4.50 2/11/60	TR 9-4130	2 Con- H Trib, Post
COUNTRY SCANDAL	131 W 13	6 Pro- No Mirror
G Mews \$3.90 5/5/60	GR 3-6800	Sat to Thur- No Fri
FANTASTICKS	181 Sullivan	5 Pro-
Sullivan \$4.60 5/3/60	OR 4-3838	1 Con- H Trib- No Mirror
HIT THE DECK	NYC Phone	7 Pro- for outdoor musical
Jones Beach \$4.85 6/23/60	CA 1-1000	
JOHN BROWN'S BODY	32 & Bway	4 Pro- Times, Post, J Am, WTS
Martineau \$3.90 6/21/60	PE 6-3056	1 Con- H Trib
KRAPP'S LAST TAPE	133 MacDoug	6 Pro- No Mirror
Provinc \$4.50 1/14/60	GR 7-9894	
LA RONDE	110 E 59	1 Pro- WTS (rave)
T Marquee \$3.90 5/9/60	PL 3-2575	5 Con- All mild (no Mirror)
LEAVE IT TO JANE	99-7th Av S	5 Pro-
Sher Sq \$5 5/25/59	CH 2-9244	2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE	126-2nd Av	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
Orpheum \$4.95 11/18/59	OR 4-8140	
MAN & SUPERMAN	351 E 74	4 Pro- H Trib, News, J Am, Post
Jan Hus \$3.90 8/16/60	LE 5-6310	2 Con- Times, WTS
3 PENNY OPERA	121 Chris	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
De Lys \$4.85 9/20/54	WA 4-8782	
LIVING REPERTORY	530-6th Av	Connection-5 con-1 Pro-Post 7/5/59
Living \$3.45	CH 2-4569	Theatre Chance-1 Pro-Post 6/22/60
SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL	NYC Phone	12th Nite-3 Pro-News, Mir, J Am-
Stratford, Conn \$5/75	CA 6-6047	Tempest-5 Pro-1 Con-Trib-No Mir
		Antony- 5 Pro-1 Con-Trib-No Mir

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Overcoat (Marceau)- C Center-9/6
H. M. S. Pinafore- Phoenix- 9/7
Sign of Jonah- Players 9/8
Dance of Death- Key 9/8
Vintage '60- Atkinson 9/12
World of Carl Sandburg Miller 9/14
Here Come the Clowns-Actors Play 9/19
The Hostage- Cort 9/20
A Taste of Honey- Lyceum 9/24
The Idiot- Gate 9/25
Christopher's Wonders-Maidman 9/26
Farewell, Farewell Eugene-Hayes 9/27
A Delightful Season- Gram Arts 9/28
Irma La Douce- Plymouth 9/29
Provincetown Show- Provincetown 10/1
When We Dead Awaken- 41st St 10/3
Drums Under the Window-C Lane 10/4
Becket- St James 10/6
Valmouth- York 10/6
The Tiger Rag-T Marquee 10/7
Mike & Elaine Revue-Golden 10/8
Laughs & Other Events-Barrymore 10/10
The Wall- Rose- 10/11
Tenderloin- 46th St- 10/17
Face of a Hero- O' Neill 10/22
49th Cousin- Ambassador 10/25
Invitation to a March- M Box 10/26
Laurette- Beck 10/27
Plough & Stars- Phoenix 10/?

Rape of the Belt-ANTA 11/2
Unsinkable M Brown-W Garden 11/3
The Mousetrap-Maidman 11/5
Period of Adjustment-Hayes 11/10
Open Up Your Heart- 11/10
Taffy- 11/15
Camelot- Majestic 11/16
Under Yum-Yum Tree-Miller 11/16
Advise & Consent- Cort 11/17
Tree Grows Bklyn-Bar Pl 11/28
Love & Label- 11/30
All the Way Home-Belasco 11/?

Little Moon of Alban-Longacre 12/1
Phinoceros- 12/3
Critic's Choice-Barrymore 12/14
Will'cat- Alvin 12/15
Do Re Mi- St James 12/26

The Hero- ANTA 1/5
Showgirl- 1/4
Love & Death- 1/15
13 Daughters- 2/9
Comedie Francaise-2/21
The Caretaker- Miller 2/?



\$25 check

Bill Co

This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE--now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professionals--college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, commentaries, reviews, etc.--published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive editorial coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone. \$25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956--\$25 each.

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